

FACT SHEET

City of Torrance 53rd Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration & Parade

- The City of Torrance's Armed Forces Day Parade has the distinction of being the *nation's longest running military parade sponsored by any city*. Torrance is one of few cities nationwide sanctioned by the Department of Defense to honor our Armed Forces through an annual Armed Forces Day Celebration & Parade.
- Last year's celebration brought approximately 100,000 people to fill the Parade route, and staff is expecting a similar turnout this year.
- The year 2012 marks the 53rd year that the City of Torrance has hosted an Armed Forces Day Celebration to honor the nation's military. Torrance's celebration lasts from Friday, May 18, 2012 through Sunday, May 20, 2012.
- On Saturday, May 19, 2012, the parade begins at 1:30 p.m. at Crenshaw Boulevard and travels one-mile west on Torrance Boulevard to Madrona Avenue. It ends approximately at 3:30 p.m.
- Each year, the City of Torrance identifies one branch of the military as the "honored service" of the Armed Forces Day Celebration. A high-ranking member of the honored service is invited to serve as Grand Marshal. This year's celebration honors the United States Air Force. Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley will be serving as the Grand Marshal for 2012.
- Besides the Parade highlight, the community can enjoy other festivities during the 53rd Annual City of Torrance Armed Forces Day Celebration & Parade, including military exhibits and a free concert by a band from the honored branch.
- Military exhibits on display including aircrafts, vehicles, support equipment may be viewed at the north end of the Del Amo Fashion Center at the lower parking lot on the west side of the parking structure on Friday May 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday May 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and on Sunday May 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The United States Air Force Band of the Golden West will perform for free on May 18 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the James R. Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive.
- The Torrance legacy of the Armed Forces Day celebration began under the leadership of Mayor Al Isen in 1960 and has grown throughout the years to be considered a Southern California tradition. According to Mayor Isen, the parade was to "increase public respect and understanding for military service and promote civic-military relationships."